

MEMBERS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Bob Bloom	Michele Charmichael	Alan Dietrich	David Elder
Seth Harkins	Maureen Haugh-Stover	Edgar Hernandez	Debra Kinsey
Merlin Lehman	Gary Seelbach	Randy Staton	Brooke Whitted

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Nicki Bazer

MEMBERS ABSENT

Kathy Briseno	Evon Robinzine	Dee Ann Ryan	Julie Stremlau
---------------	----------------	--------------	----------------

STAFF PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Mindy Miller	Linda Prewitt	John Schornagel	Theresa Williams
--------------	---------------	-----------------	------------------

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Watts

GUESTS PRESENT

John Gak, DCFS	Lori Gertz	Jane Kelly, DCFS	Bill Pumo, IAASE
Lara Stocco, DCFS			

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Members, staff and guests introduced themselves. Chairperson Seelbach welcomed three new members, recently appointed to the Authority. Michele Charmichael was appointed as the ISBE Designee from ISBE, replacing Darren Reisberg and Beatriz Diaz-Pollack as Alternate Designee. Seth Harkins was appointed as a Legislative Designee by Representative Michael Smith, replacing Kathy Ryg. And Nicole (Nicki) Bazer was appointed as the Designee from the Office of Attorney General, replacing Erin Ipjian.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 12, 2010 MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the August 12, 2010 meeting.

MOTION: *Brooke Whitted moved and Debra Kinsey seconded that the minutes of August 12, 2010 Authority meeting be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts:

- August and September Staff Activity Reports.
- A letter by Director Schornagel to Dr. Chris Koch at the request of Robert Bloom regarding the need for testing accommodations for students receiving services under RTI.
- A letter appointing Brooke Whitted to the School Bullying Prevention Taskforce.
- A copy of a DCFS brochure pertaining to Differential Response.
- A thought provoking paper written by 2 Fellows with the American Orthopsychiatric Association. *“Where Have All the Children Gone? The Effects of the Justice System on America’s Children and Youth-*

Other Items

Director Schornagel commented on recent changes in CRSA membership again welcoming Michele Charmichael, Seth Harkins and Nicki Bazer to the Authority. Michele was appointed by State Superintendent of Education Dr. Christopher Koch following Darren Reisberg and Beatriz Diaz-Pollack, who were both appointed in 2008. Dr. Seth Harkins was appointed by Representative Michael Smith to serve as a legislative designee to the Authority. Seth follows Kathy Ryg who was with the CRSA since 2008. Nicki Bazer is Bureau Chief with the Bureau of Disability Rights within the Office of Attorney General and follows Erin Ipjian who was on the Board briefly from January of 2010. Director Schornagel informed the Authority that he had met briefly with Arthur Bishop in Chicago who was recently appointed as the Director of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice and they discussed his making an appointment of a Designee from DJJ. He also commented that, Director Bishop indicated that the various DJJ/DCFS taskforces have concluded their work and that written recommendations will be made public soon.

Director Schornagel informed the Authority that Theresa Williams, CRSA’s Network Development Coordinator, submitted her letter of resignation to CRSA, to be effective November 5th, exactly 25 months to the day after starting with the Authority. She is taking a public sector job with the federal government. He commented that Theresa was the first CRSA employee to fill this position and urged members to look closely at the staff activity reports to gauge her energy and impact. He commented that Theresa gave CRSA tremendous visibility around the state as she worked to strengthen networking capability all over Illinois. He added that LAN stakeholders throughout the state and CRSA staff will feel the impact of her leaving immediately. He acknowledged that there will be a vacuum because Theresa was the only

employee in the state that we are aware of whose position was created explicitly to strengthen interagency LAN networking capability and to improve connectivity between kids/families the providers. He remarked that she did both well and that the CRSA family will miss her. Members, staff and guest gave Theresa a round of applause.

Director Schornagel thanked DCFS for their in-kind services by supporting the creation of Theresa's position. He reminded the Authority that DCFS provided gratis office space, telecommunication and IT support to Theresa out of their Marion Regional Office and that DCFS has also provided identical, long-standing support to CRSA Regional Coordinator, Jude DeAngelo out of the Aurora Regional offices.

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

Randy Staton reports that DHS/DORS will be using 20 million dollars of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act fund over a two year period to promote employment of individuals with disabilities. He briefly outlined three related programs in conjunction with the Community College Board, a hiring initiative program and a program to follow up on employment of individuals with mental illness

Alan Dietrich referenced a conversation held in the Executive Committee on October 13th pertaining to DHS/DMH's recent implementation of mandatory financial disclosures for all DMH services recipients. He acknowledged that this has been controversial with consumers and some ICG recipients were struggling with whether or not to comply with the financial disclosure. Mr. Dietrich informed the Authority that DHS/DMH is developing four exceptions to the financial disclosure policy and that he will share those with the Authority as they are implemented. He urged members who have an interest to go to the DHS web-site to review the mental health FY11 Provider manual, Part 3, which deals with consumer enrollment and eligibility---<http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=33244>.

Director Schornagel commented that the financial disclosure requirements are considered by many to be "means testing" which will ultimately lead to recipients having to pay co-payments for publicly funded mental health services based upon their household income and assets. He added that parents of children in ICG supported residential placements are prohibited by federal law and established Illinois case law from participating financially in any way in residential ICG placements and that the financial disclosure should not apply to these individuals. Merlin Lehman added that means testing and consumer co-payments for public services are really a progressive tax.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. CRSA Service Procedural Guidelines Amendments

The Authority reviewed proposed amendments to the CRSA Service Procedural Guidelines.

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Alan Dietrich seconded that the proposed amendments to the CRSA Service Procedural guidelines be adopted. The motion carried unanimously.*

B. CRSA Bylaws Amendments

The Authority reviewed proposed amendments to the CRSA Bylaws at second reading..

MOTION: *Debra Kinsey moved and Bob Bloom seconded that the Authority adopt the proposed amendments to the CRSA Bylaws. The motion carried unanimously.*

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. CRSA FY 10 Expenditures Report

Director Schornagel shared the final CRSA FY 10 expenditure report with the Authority reporting CRSA's final expenditures for FY 10 were \$544,495.78, lapsing \$30,504,000.22.

B. CRSA FY 12 Spending Plan

MOTION: *Brooke Whitted moved and Bob Bloom seconded that the Authority adopt the proposed FY 12 spending plan of \$628.00. The motion carried unanimously.*

C. Dispute Resolution Case Updates

Director Schornagel updated the Authority on the status of two cases that are moving through the Dispute Resolution process. One case is at the Technical Assistance Conference level and an Authority Hearing will be scheduled as soon as is practicable. In the other case, an Authority Hearing had already been held and the case was held at the Authority Hearing level. A Second Authority Hearing is scheduled for later today

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

Chairperson Seelbach reported on behalf of the Executive Committee that most topics discussed most recently by the Executive Committee have been covered earlier in the Agenda with the exception of the following.

He announced to the Committee that the CRSA will enjoy the services of an unpaid

Administrative Assistant intern from Lincoln Land Community College during the spring semester. Lindsey Anne Schornagel will begin her internship in January 2011, supervised by Lynn Lowder, Administrative Assistant. He also announced that an intern working on a human services degree has asked to accompany CRSA Regional Coordinator Jude DeAngelo, at various multiple-agency planning staffing and activities. Both interns will be required to sign confidentiality agreements.

Chairperson Seelbach commented that in April 2011 it will have been five years since CRSA held a strategic planning conference to set goals for the Authority. He announced that the Executive Committee has recommended that the Authority hold another strategic planning conference in the spring of 2011. David Elder volunteered to Chair the Committee.

MOTION: *David Elder moved and Brooke Whitted seconded that Chairperson Seelbach appoint a CRSA Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee. The motion carried unanimously.*

Bob Bloom suggested that Director Schornagel send out an E-poll to the membership outlining possible themes to be addressed in the strategic planning process.. Brooke Whitted suggested that Seth Harkins be solicited to facilitate the Conference.

Director Schornagel reviewed for the Authority the long standing DHS/DDD policy of requiring resident LEAs to agree, in writing to pay for the special education costs of students who are being considered for residential placement by DHS/DDD, before, DHS/DDD administration will process the residential treatment request and implement the placement. He added that this policy goes back to a time when School Code statutes were vague about an LEA's responsibility to pay for related special education costs associated with state funded and court funded residential placements and DHS/DDD (then DMH/DD) needed prior assurance of commitment from resident LEAs. He also added that because of a series of school code amendments over the last decade, (most recently 14-7.05), LEA's are now clearly, statutorily obligated to pay for the special education costs of students who are placed residential by any Illinois state agency or Illinois Court. As such, Director Schornagel asserts that the current DHS/DDD co-fund letter policy is obsolete and needs to be amended. Director Schornagel commented that on a fairly regular basis, LEA's refuse to sign the required co-fund letter for a variety of reasons, thus stalling the DHS/DDD residential eligibility determination process, effectively blocking children's access to that service and creating multiple agency disputes. He added that when CRSA staff members encounter these disputes, he contacts DDD Administration to alert them to the dispute and through negotiations between DHS/DDD and LEAs, potential disputes are successfully resolved. He asserts that this sort of communication and intervention are time consuming for all involved, are unnecessarily stressful for families seeking residential services through DHS/DDD and are unnecessary in the context of current School Code statutes. Chairperson Seelbach reports that the Executive Committee recommends that the Authority bring the DHS/DDD co-funding letter policy to the attention of DHS Administration, in writing, asking that the current policy be updated and brought into alignment with the current, relevant Illinois School Code statutes.

Director Schornagel verbalized his appreciation for the efforts of DHS/DDD staff to remedy Co-fund letter disputes when they are brought to their attention by CRSA. But he also expressed his concern that there is real potential here for children to be either under-served by DHS/DDD or, go un-served, when LEA's refuse to sign required co-fund letters and effected parents don't find somebody to advocate on their behalf to resolve the impasse and to gain access to DHS/DDD funded residential treatment. .

MOTION: *Brooke Whitted moved and David Elder seconded that the that the Authority bring the DHS/DDD co-funding letter policy to the attention of DHS Administration, in writing, asking that the current policy be updated and brought into alignment with the current, relevant Illinois School Code statutes. The motion carried unanimously.*

B. Staff Evaluation Committee

Chairperson Seelbach reported that the Staff Evaluation Committee is scheduled to meet soon to work on the Annual Performance Appraisal for the Executive Director.

VIII. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Brooke Whitted moved and David Elder seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*